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Prof. Joshua Lederberg
Raymond and Beverly Sackler
Foundation Scholar
Suite 400 (Founders Hall)
The Rockefeller University
1230 York Avenue
New York NY 10021-6399

Berne, April 15, 2002 Zi/em

Re.: Review on liver regeneration (in Med Sci Mon)

Dear Professor Lederberg,

Thank you very much for your message and for your interest and appreciation; of course I enjoyed this feedback very much, and I am deeply honored.

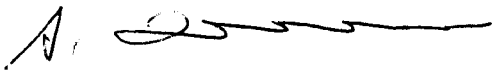
Due to unknown reasons, my re-e-mail to you was refused by the server, so I take the opportunity to reply in the 'conventional' way.

It was with both, pleasure and fascination, that I started to read your article as of 1945 you were so kind to add to your message (by the way, I was born just the year before you had performed this work...). Please accept my appreciation for this text: A host of interesting and basic findings are compiled in it, together with several references which I did never read so far. So, I profit a lot from this paper. In particular, several key questions addressed in your text, such as mechanisms sensing what is needed for maintaining the appropriate structure and function of organs, are still not solved. It was stimulating to note that older observations referring to the role of portal venous blood flow for the emergence of a growth response are of high actuality and are in fact starting to be understood in more detail only now. Together with a group in New Zealand (at Otago University) we have studied and are currently studying such questions, mainly in grafted rodent livers. Moreover, the data on starved animals are highly interesting, mainly in regard to the apparent decoupling of liver cell response from the starving situation. I am not aware that recent studies have addressed this important point in more detail. So, I shall go back and read several of the key references you cited.

I shall now continue to carefully study your report, which evokes re-thinking of several questions based on careful scientific studies having been performed much earlier. It is very fruitful to have access to such sources, which are otherwise not easily obtainable. According

to my view, we are in a phase where excellent physiologic observations done many years ago can now be refined by the methodologic armamentarium which we have at our disposition today, in order to not only increase our knowledge, but also to even more broaden our view for the beauty of nature. Therefore, I am really very grateful that you spent your time to make this text available for me, which I regard as a personal gift.

Best wishes,
Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'A. Zimmermann', with a long, horizontal, wavy line extending to the right.

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